



# Community Connection



*Village of Canal Winchester, Spring 2010*

## Make Sure You're Counted in the 2010 Census!

Every ten years the U.S. Constitution requires a census questionnaire to be completed by all United States residents. The census defines who we are as a nation, affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding.

Your response to the 2010 census will not only help shape the future of the nation, but also Canal Winchester. The demographic data collected will be used to determine locations for housing, retail establishments, schools, and more. Additionally, population counts will dictate the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the boundaries of legislative districts.

Census questionnaires will be delivered to every household in the United States through the United States Postal Service in March. The form is quick, easy and confidential. It includes only 10 short questions on key demographic information such as the number of people in your household and whether you own or rent your housing unit. The more detailed information formerly collected through the decennial census will now be gathered annually from a small percentage of the population in a separate survey.



**IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

Every U.S. resident is required by law to fill out a census questionnaire, regardless of whether or not they are citizens. Anyone who does not return a completed questionnaire by mail will be visited by a census worker conducting personal interviews. To help ensure more accurate data, the Census Bureau cannot share individual responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

The 2010 census is especially important for Canal Winchester. Not only will our residents' responses be part of the national data, but a population count of at least 5,000 residents will transform our community from a village to a city. With an estimated population of 6,500 residents, we expect our city-status to become official when census counts are finalized in late 2010.

Help us make sure that our residents count by completing your 2010 census questionnaire. With your help, the Census Bureau will continue to produce accurate data, which will directly affect the quality of life in Canal Winchester. For more information, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).



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## 2010 Mayor's State of the Village Address



There is no question that 2009 was a tough year. It seemed that everything I read or watched mentioned the recession and the toll it was taking on the economy. From the federal government and large corporations to small businesses and households, everyone seemed to be impacted in some way, shape or form by the state of the economy.

Despite the worst economic climate this nation has seen since the Great Depression, we were able to remain on solid footing in Canal Winchester. The past year has been challenging yet rewarding. We watched our spending and lived within our means. We found new ways of getting the job done and ways to do it with less.

I am happy to share that we ended the year in a positive financial position. Despite a \$917,000 shortage in income tax collections for the year, we managed to carryover \$2.6 million in our general fund, up \$50,000 from 2008. This positive standing can largely be attributed to strong internal controls by staff. They deserve everyone's praise for closely monitoring the village's budget and making a commitment not to spend more money than the village was able to bring in during the year.

Much of Canal Winchester's economic uncertainty in 2009 stemmed from an

agreement between the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and Waste Management, one of the village's largest employers and a significant source of income tax revenue. Last year SWACO announced it would require waste haulers to transport 100 percent of the waste they pick up in Franklin County to SWACO's landfill. In anticipation of this loss, the village reduced expenses in every one of its departments during 2009 and trimmed its 2010 operating budget by nearly an additional one Million dollars. Fortunately, these cuts were able to be made without major impact to the services our residents have come to expect.

Although negative economic news still seems to dominate national headlines, we have many positive things to look forward to in Canal Winchester during 2010. Early this year, the much-anticipated Diley Ridge Medical Center - a desperately needed service in our area - is expected to open its doors. The campus will include a 35,000 square-foot emergency and diagnostic center, which will feature a 24-hour, full-service emergency room, an imaging center, a clinical laboratory and women's health services. A 46,000 square-foot medical office building offering specialty and primary care physicians will be located adjacent to the emergency center. Future development at the Diley Ridge Medical Center could include an ambulatory surgery center, additional

outpatient services, an expanded medical office space, and even a full-service hospital.

Also expected to open in the first half of the year is the Manifold & Phalor machine shop. The custom metal fabricator will operate a 30,000 square-foot facility on Busey Road in the Canal Pointe Industrial Park.



In anticipation of additional development around Canal Point Industrial Park and the Diley Ridge Medical Center, work has been done to expand the infrastructure in the area. Dove Parkway has been extended further west and a new road, Robinette Way, has been constructed opening up an additional 53 acres of land for industrial development. Rutherford Drive is complete and now connects Dove Parkway to Howe Parkway, a much needed link that improves traffic flow in the area. Eichhorn Drive has also been widened from Diley Road West to the Diley Ridge Medical Campus.





More road improvements are on the agenda for this year, as part of the village's 2010 street program. Among the upgrades are the resurfacing of Washington Street and Old Creek Lane, the reconstruction of Hocking Street and general pavement maintenance in selected areas.

We also expect to be awarded funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission during 2010 for Gender Road improvements at Winchester Boulevard and Fox Hill Drive, with construction beginning in 2011. The project will include additional turn lanes, minor widening, new traffic signals and a backup traffic light system at Winchester Boulevard in case of power failure.

Future road improvements may be decided by a new thoroughfare plan, a study which forecasts the traffic flow to, from, and around the village. The plan, which was last updated in 2005, is reviewed as needed based on growth in the area. The new study, done by Village Engineer EMH&T, estimates traffic flows between now and 2030. The report also suggests what areas will be main thoroughfares and recommends how these areas should flow. The updated plan will go to Village Council this year for approval.



In addition to road improvements, several other projects were completed throughout the village during 2009. One such project was a new bike path located on Groveport Road that connects the Gender Road and Winchester Boulevard bike paths. With this new section, the village now boasts 4.5 miles of contiguous bike path for public use.

Another park project soon to be complete is a skate park in front of Roger Hanners Park on Groveport Road. Slated to open this spring, the skate park will include nearly 4,000 square feet for area skaters to enjoy.



To help prioritize future park development, the village collaborated with the Canal Winchester Joint Recreation District this past year on a survey. The survey is the result of a larger effort of the Parks Advisory Committee, created to evaluate current park and recreational facilities and make recommendations for future development. So far the committee has reviewed park components, met with other communities to learn about their park and recreation programs, and received input from the public through the survey. The village plans to use the survey responses as a guide to help prioritize the future development of our parkland.

As the result of another survey done late in 2008 where residents expressed interest in a college in Canal Winchester, the village was approached by representatives from Ohio University. In October the university held a public forum at the community center to see what programs Ohio University offers that might be of interest to residents and to explore the potential need for classes in Canal Winchester. The university is now monitoring types of classes people from the Canal Winchester area sign up for online to better gauge interest in their programs.

Also at the request of community members, Council adopted an

ordinance placing restrictions on groups and individuals peddling and soliciting funds in the village in October. Our community garnered national media coverage in USA Today and strong interest from local media outlets regarding the do-not-knock list developed in conjunction with this ordinance. If you're interested in being added to this list, forms and decals are available at the village's municipal building.

As I mentioned earlier, our staff continues to monitor expenditures, making sure the village is using tax payers dollars wisely. I'm sure many of you are also trying to reduce your spending, often looking for inexpensive and close to home options for shopping, dining and entertainment. Many area retail establishments offer affordable options, and by supporting these businesses, you will be pushing money back into the local economy.

We are fortunate to have many established businesses in our community, which help provide a strong tax base for the village. I'd also like to welcome some new businesses and congratulate those that have expanded during the past year, including:

- AK Athletic (Howe Industrial Parkway)
- Diley Ridge Medical Center (Diley Road)
- Doctor Whitt (Diley Road)
- Fairfield Timeshares (Diley Road)
- Grapevine Pizza & Café (Winchester Boulevard)
- Manifold & Phalor (Busey Road)
- Mount Carmel Health Providers (Diley Road)
- Nationwide Childrens (Diley Road)
- Nifco (Dove Parkway)
- Ohio State Schools of Cosmetology & Barber (Gender Road)
- TS Tech (Dove Parkway)
- Winchester Square Medical Offices (Gender Road)



There are also several opportunities available for free entertainment within the village, such as spending time at one of the village's parks or attending a community event. Our events continue to grow in popularity, with record-breaking attendance at all of our celebrations once again last year. I encourage anyone who hasn't been to an event recently to check one out this year. I also hope to see everyone at the community's newest festival, the Canal Winchester Blues & Ribfest!



Another exciting item on the agenda for 2010 is the Village of Canal Winchester's transformation into the City of Canal Winchester. In Ohio, villages become cities when they have 5,000 residents. While we reached this population mark a few years ago, our city status won't be official until after the 2010 census results are finalized. Although there are some additional responsibilities that come with being a city, we'll embrace our new title and do our best to become one of the finest cities in Ohio.

To help ensure we continue to exercise all the powers of local self-government to the best of our ability, our charter is reviewed every ten years. This year is a charter review year, and therefore, I have appointed five members and Council has appointed six members to serve on the Charter Review Commission as dictated by the charter. Before

the end of this year, the commission members will communicate their findings to Village Council and make any recommendations for revisions to the charter.

Speaking of communication, the village added social networking to the mix as another way to keep residents informed. We launched a Twitter account and Facebook fan page in November, which we've been using as another way to help keep residents and the broader community in the loop about village events, services and projects. If you're not already a fan or a follower of the village on these sites, I hope you'll consider becoming one.

Another project that was completed during 2009 was the installation of new water meters throughout the village that transmit information to a laptop in a village vehicle as staff drives by. The meter reading is then stored in a computer, which eliminates the need to individually scan each meter. The new system has several benefits, including being more convenient for home owners, giving more accurate readings, having a stronger range and reducing reading times.

One project still underway is the restoration of the Interurban building. Thanks to help from students at Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Center and donations from a few area

businesses, exterior work on the building was completed last fall. We are now focusing on the interior of the building with the assistance of Main Street Canal Winchester, which has sold park benches to raise money for some interior work. Without any dedicated funds for the project, we will continue to look for donations of funds and services to refurbish the interior. Watch for news about the dedication of a historical marker for the Interurban building when a date is set later this spring.

2009 was a busy year and there is no doubt 2010 will be as well. While I expect 2010 to be hard, I am cautiously optimistic that the worst is behind us. In the meantime, the village will continue to exhibit a very conservative financial posture, keeping a close eye on the local and national economies. Additionally, we will monitor the budget closely during 2010, making adjustments as needed and implementing additional cost-saving measures when possible.

I feel deep pride for the soon-to-be City of Canal Winchester and look forward to a promising year ahead! Canal Winchester truly is a great town.

Sincerely,

Michael Ebert  
Mayor, Canal Winchester





## Connect with the Village on Twitter and Facebook



Canal Winchester has joined the online conversation via two of the most popular social media networks today; Facebook and Twitter. With hundreds of fans on Facebook and dozens of active followers on Twitter, social media is already opening new channels of dialogue between the village and residents.

When people reference social media, they are talking about the phenomenon of online forums where people connect and share information. On Facebook, a person can find something that interests them, Canal Winchester for example, and become a fan of it. While on Twitter, people share short headlines of text (Tweets) and view a stream of information from people whose Tweets they subscribe to (follow).

“Social media sites allow for two-way communications and we’ve begun to see interaction with residents on these platforms already,” explained Carrie Hoover, community affairs director for the village. “It’s been very helpful to read comments shared with us on these sites, especially since these are



different people than we commonly see at other venues like Village Council meetings.”

Facebook and Twitter have helped the village to get information out quickly on everything from snow plowing to special events. The village has been pleased with the increased amount of interaction with its residents through these sites so far and looks forward to more participation with community members in the future.

Hoover added, “We encourage residents to ask questions, make suggestions and let us know what they like through these sites.”

If you love living in Canal Winchester, you can make your fan status official by joining the village’s fan page. You can also get real-time community news by following the village on Twitter. Log on to the village’s Web site at [www.canalwinchesterohio.gov](http://www.canalwinchesterohio.gov) and click on the Twitter or Facebook link. If you don’t already have a Twitter or Facebook account, setting one up is simple and only takes a few minutes.

## Tax Information for the Village of Canal Winchester

The Village of Canal Winchester does not have mandatory income tax filing requirements for individuals if your employer withholds taxes. However, businesses are required to file. Forms are available at the village’s municipal office building or online through the City of Columbus Income Tax Office at [www.columbus-tax.net](http://www.columbus-tax.net).

Individuals are required to file tax returns with the IRS, State of Ohio

and their school district. These forms are available at all U.S. Post Offices and all Columbus Public Libraries.

The following are resources for questions concerning taxes:

**Federal Tax (IRS)**  
(800) 829-3676  
[www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov)

## Did You Know?

The portion of your real estate tax bill that the village receives on a \$200,000 house is \$140.

Oils and grease are the number one cause of clogged sewer pipes in households and municipal sewers both here in Canal Winchester and throughout the country.

The village falls within two counties (Franklin and Fairfield), three townships (Madison, Violet and Bloom), and four school districts (Canal Winchester, Bloom Carroll, Pickerington Local and Groveport Madison)

By village ordinance, residents or contractors who dump soil, gravel or other debris in village roadways may be charged with a minor misdemeanor.

The village has at least 74 species of street trees, represented by over 100 cultivars of those species. Maple species alone are represented by at least twenty different cultivars or forms.

Mayor’s Court traffic tickets may now be paid online through the village’s Web site, [www.canalwinchesterohio.gov](http://www.canalwinchesterohio.gov).

**Ohio Income Tax**  
(888) 405-4039  
[www.tax.ohio.gov](http://www.tax.ohio.gov)

**School Income District Tax**  
(614) 387-0222

**Franklin County Property Tax**  
(614) 462-3211

**Fairfield County Property Tax**  
(740) 687-7020

## Summer Events

### Music & Art in the Park

May 21, June 18 and July 16  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

### Farmer's Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. - noon  
May 22 - August 28 and October 9 - 23  
Wednesdays, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
late May through August

### Taste of Canal

June 26, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

### Blues & Ribfest

August 6, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
August 7, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

### Labor Day Festival

September 4, 10:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
September 5, noon - 11 p.m.  
September 6, 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## Skate Park Coming Soon!

The village's new skate park, located in front of Hanners Park at 590 Groveport Road, is expected to open later this spring with nearly 4,000 square feet of ramps, obstacles, and grind areas for skaters to enjoy. A few of the things you can look forward to include a quarter pipe, a handrail and a Barcelona ledge.

While a lot of progress has been made on the skate park so far, there are still things that need done, including landscaping. The village will be hosting a landscaping volunteer day (date TBA) to involve those interested in helping. Gary Bumpus, Chair of the Street Tree Advisory Board, has designed a landscaping plan that others can help implement on the volunteer day. If you are a skater who plans on using the park, this would be a great opportunity to contribute to its opening.

The council-approved park was at the request of local skaters, and the village worked closely with them to help design a park that would best suit their needs. The village involved local skaters during the entire process, listening to their input on what they wanted, and reviewing the various designs with them.

Who Skates won the contract to build the park. Their original design included 3,200 square feet, which grew to nearly 4,000 square feet as the project progressed. Although the size increased, the park was built within budget.

"Who Skates was great to work with," said Director of Public Works Matt Peoples. "We got everything we asked for and more from them."

All standard village park rules will apply at the new skate park. The skate park will be open from dawn to dusk and all skaters using the park will do so at their own risk. A complete list of skate park rules will be posted at the site.



## Do-Not-Knock Registry and Decals Now Available

You now have more options available to control who knocks on your doors thanks to an ordinance passed by your Village Council in October. The ordinance establishes everything from registration requirements for different groups to specifications for signs refusing uninvited peddlers and solicitors.

As part of the ordinance, you can now sign up for a "Do-Not-Knock" registry. This database, similar to the do-not-call list, restricts who can knock on your door. The village is also providing "no peddlers or solicitors invited" decals for those of you who wish to post one on your property.

Decals and forms for Canal Winchester's "Do-Not-Knock" registry can be picked up at the village's municipal building at 36. S High Street. The forms are also available on the village's Web site at: [www.canalwinchesterohio.gov](http://www.canalwinchesterohio.gov), under forms and permits. Since the "Do-Not-Knock" form requires a signature, the village is unable to sign anyone up over the phone.

"We provide every group or individual who gets a peddler and solicitors license with a list of everyone who has signed up for the 'Do-Not-Knock' registry," said Canal Winchester Finance Director Nanisa Osborn. "Once someone has a license, it is then their responsibility to contact us to get any updates to the list."

Osborn also shared that residents are able to list exceptions when they sign up for the "Do-Not-Knock" registry. For example, someone might allow certain groups such as the American Cancer Society to knock on their door or only allow peddling and soliciting during certain hours.

Violation of the peddler and solicitors ordinance constitutes trespassing and is a fourth degree misdemeanor. If you believe someone is in violation of the peddler and solicitor ordinance, you can call the sheriff's office non-emergency number at 614-837-7193 to have the ordinance enforced and the organization's permit revoked.

## Snow Removal Requires Your Assistance

With winter here, it is important that we keep our snow removal process moving as smoothly as possible. The Village of Canal Winchester makes every effort to keep our streets clear and passable before, during and after a snow event by utilizing brine solution application, salting and plowing. Our policy is to clear streets curb-to-curb to provide easier access for emergency vehicles, while providing the high-quality snow removal service our residents have come to expect.

You can assist by:

- Not placing snow cleared from parking lots and driveways on streets, sidewalks or bike paths
- Piling shoveled snow to the right of driveways (as you face the street)
- Keeping children away from snow plows
- Not building igloos, caves or other structures close to the street
- Keeping parked cars off street
- Cleaning around mailboxes to assure mail delivery
- Clearing public sidewalks as soon as possible (as required of all residents and business owners by village ordinance 905.02 and ORC 723.011)

Although these procedures may be adjusted as needed, below is the village's general policy for snow removal and street salting.

### Plowing

Streets within the village will be plowed in the following order: arterial streets (including Columbus, Gender, High and Waterloo), other collector streets and major streets within subdivisions, secondary streets within subdivisions, cul-de-sacs and then alleys. Streets will continue to be plowed until excess snow is removed from parking and driving lanes, freeing storm sewer catch basins so flooding and freezing does not occur. This will also open the area to mailboxes and parking.

### Salting

Streets will be salted in the same order as plowing. Re-salting will be done as needed.



### Downtown Business District

Removal of plowed snow in the downtown area will only take place when snowfall exceeds eight inches and only after all other removal activities are complete. Removal will only take place during normal working hours.

Every effort is made to keep storm drains clear during plowing. Any storm drain that is closed as well as wheelchair ramps will be cleared following the storm. On the rare occasion that Canal Winchester's snow removal causes damage to a mailbox, the village will contact the resident about repair.

As a reminder, both residents and business owners are required by law to clear the public sidewalks in front of their property. Please make sure to keep cleared snow – either by you or snow removal services you contract with – out of the street, and off the bike path. If you contract with a third party for snow removal, it is your responsibility to make sure the company is aware of our snow removal policy, including not blocking bike paths or pushing snow into village streets.

With your help, snow removal can run smoothly. Should you have any questions about the snow removal process, please call 614-834-5100.

## Smokin' Blues, Sizzlin' Hot Ribs, & More!

Come out and celebrate some of the best sights, sounds and tastes of summer at the Canal Winchester Blues & Ribfest this August in historic downtown Canal Winchester. The village will serve as the new home and Main Street Canal Winchester will play host to this popular festival established 12 years ago in neighboring Pickerington. The event will take place from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, August 6, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, August 7. Admission is free!

Formerly the Pickerington, Jazz, Blues & Ribfest, the event has drawn an estimated 13,000 attendees in the past. Now expanded to two days, the festival is expected to bring an even larger crowd to

Canal Winchester. The summer celebration features live blues music on two stages, world-class ribs, a variety of non-rib food options, a beer garden, and locally crafted items and art. There will also be child-friendly activities.

High Street will close between Waterloo and Columbus streets for the event, but intersections will remain open. For the safety of all attendees, bicycles, skateboards and other "recreational wheels" are not allowed inside the festival area. Festival goers are encouraged to bring chairs, but should leave coolers, food and beverages from outside the event at home. Also, no pets will be permitted.

Looking for a way to promote your business? Sponsors of this event will have the opportunity to reach thousands of blues and rib enthusiasts from around the state while helping to sustain a central Ohio tradition. Support from festival sponsors will help offset some of the cost associated with the event. Further information about sponsorship can be found on the event Web site.

We look forward to enjoying some smokin' blues, sizzlin' hot ribs and more with you at this year's Canal Winchester Blues & Ribfest. For more information, please visit the festival Web site at [www.bluesandribfest.com](http://www.bluesandribfest.com). Band schedules and a list of vendors will be available soon!



**Village of Canal Winchester**  
36 S. High Street  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110  
614-837-7493  
[www.canalwinchesterohio.gov](http://www.canalwinchesterohio.gov)

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Michael Ebert .....Mayor

John Bender, Rick Deeds, Steve  
Donahue (Vice President), Bobbie  
Mershon, Marilyn Rush-Ekelberry  
(President), Leah Turner and James  
Wynkoop.....Council

## Guide to Village Employees

614-837-7493  
[www.canalwinchesterohio.gov](http://www.canalwinchesterohio.gov)

Village Administration  
36 S. High Street

Community Center  
22 S. Trine Street

Accounting Clerk .....614-834-5106  
Building Dept. Administrative Assistant .....614-837-7501  
Building Official .....614-834-5102  
Clerk of Court .....614-837-7691  
Community Affairs Director .....614-834-9727  
Development Director .....614-837-1894  
Finance Director .....614-837-6937  
Mayor .....614-837-7493  
Planning & Zoning Administrator .....614-837-6742  
Receptionist .....614-837-7493  
Utility Clerk .....614-837-7716  
Zoning Officer .....614-834-5101

Community Center ..... 614-837-8276

Construction Services  
400 Ashbrook Road

Construction Services ..... 614-834-5100, ext. 101

Department of Public Works  
400 Ashbrook Road

Director of Public Works .....614-834-5100, ext. 109  
Division of Streets .....614-834-5100, ext. 105  
Division of Urban Forestry .....614-834-5100, ext. 110  
Division of Water Reclamation .....614-834-5100, ext. 103  
Division of Water Treatment .....614-837-5623